

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully traverses and requests reconsideration.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the removal of the restriction requirement and for the notice that claims 11-17, 23 and 24 are allowed, that claims 5-8 would be allowable if rewritten to include the limitations of intervening claims, and that claims 10 and 18-20 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶2. Applicant also respectfully notes that claims 21 and 22 have been reinstated as a result of the withdrawal of the restriction requirement.

As an initial matter, Applicant notes that the Specification, paragraph [0026] has been amended to replace the word “let” with “leg” at page 9, line 12 of the present application, as required by the Office Action. In addition, paragraph [0031] has been amended to be in conformity with the reference numerals in FIG. 1.

Claims 4, 9, 10 and 18-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶2 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as his invention. As to claims 4, 9 and 10, Applicant respectfully notes that these claims have been amended to clarify that at least one of the base surface and the leg surface is defined by a seal, as supported by at least paragraph [0054], fifth sentence of the Specification. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 4 and 9 are in condition for allowance, and that claim 10 is also in condition for allowance not merely as depending on allowable claim 9.

Additionally, Applicant has amended claims 18-20 to correctly refer to independent claim 17, which the Office Action has allowed. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 18-20 are in condition for allowance.

Further still, claim 1 has been amended to note that the inflatable cushion cell is non-annular, as is illustrated, for example, by FIGS. 1, 2 and 5 and by the accompanying description.

Finally, new claim 25 has been added, and Applicant respectfully submits that this claim finds full support in the Specification. Notably, the limitation that an inflatable cushion cell comprises a plurality of securing structures is supported by at least paragraph [0033] of the Specification and by FIG. 2.

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,161,794, issued to Darnfors. As to claim 1, Darnfors teaches a diagonal seal structure which extends in a curve (i.e., “defining line” 4), an embodiment which is contemplated by Applicant’s general use of a diagonal seal structure. Darnfors also teaches an annular headrest. However, Applicant respectfully submits that Darnfors does not teach a non-annular inflatable cushion cell, as found in amended claim 1, and instead teaches a different structure. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

Claims 2 and 3 add additional novel and non-obvious subject matter and are each allowable not merely as depending on allowable claim 1. For example, but not by way of limitation, claim 3 requires that each compartment of the inflatable cushion cell have at least one base surface and at least one leg surface located opposite the diagonal seal structure. The Office Action has alleged that Darnfors teaches a base surface and a leg surface, but Applicant is unable to find any mention of a base surface or a leg surface in Darnfors, and no specific element in Darnfors has been cited as being either a base surface or a leg surface. For all of these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2 and 3 are in condition for allowance.


Applicant respectfully submits that claims 5-8 now depend on an allowable base claim (i.e., claim 1) and as such are also in condition for allowance.

As to new claim 25, Applicant respectfully submits that Darnfors does not teach the embodiment wherein an inflatable cushion cell comprises a plurality of securing structures. As such, claim 25 is also in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. The Examiner is invited to contact the below-listed attorney if the Examiner believes that a telephone conference will advance the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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